

Ref: XA1540

17 June 2004

International Preliminary Examining Authority
European Patent Office
D-80298
Munich
Germany

**Via Fax
Confirmation by Post**

Dear Sirs,

**International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/02746
BAE SYSTEMS PLC et al**

In response to the Written Opinion dated 16 March 2004 issued in relation to the above application, the following submissions are made:

The Applicant cannot agree with the Examiner that D1 discloses a method and a radar system having all the features of claims 1 and 6.

The present application is concerned with stretch processing to obtain high range resolution in radar systems. This is achieved by applying time dept dependent phase shifts which vary at discrete time intervals to each transmitted and received radar pulse. The received pulse is then sampled at discrete time intervals to obtain range information.

D1 relates to a radar system in which phase processing is carried out in order to eliminate ambiguity problems. This is achieved by alternating the phase of successive transmitted radar pulses and detecting the phase of the reflected signal under the respective phase references associated with the transmitted pulses.

A fundamental difference between D1 and the present application is that, in D1, the phase is changed between successive pulses (see col 3, lines 56-63' and col 5, line 54 - col 6, line 6) whereas, multiple phase changes are made within each pulse in the present application.

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Therefore D1 does not disclose the features as recited in the characterising portion of claims 1 and 6. Moreover D1 is not concerned with obtaining high range resolution in a radar system but with the elimination of radar ambiguity problems.

We look forward to receipt of a favourable International Preliminary Examination Report in due course.

Yours faithfully,



R M Edis
Authorised Representative